

SPARKHILL WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Sparkhill	DATE: 16 February 2019
VENUE: St Johns Church, St Johns Church B11 4RG	START/FINISH TIMES: 11am – 12.45pm
COUNCILLOR Nicky Brennan	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 14
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Hanif, West Midlands Police PCSO's Martin Peach, Lorriane Wheelan & Rachael Ryan Georgina Johnson, Community Engagement Officer, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Councillor Fazal - apologies

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Planning Matters

HMO, Castleford Road – Cllr Brennan said that there had been strong opposition to the planning application including 100+ signature petition & the application had been refused

Showell Green Lane, Change of use – Cllr Brennan said that an application had been submitted to turn a hairdressers to a restaurant & she had submitted her objection

Residents expressed concern at the increasing number of HMO's in the area and queried how many were actually registered. **It was agreed to have an item on HMO's at a future meeting.**

Concern also expressed about the number of fast food outlets on the Stratford Road and that the 10% limit did not seem to be enforced in this area. **Councillor Brennan to investigate.**

Grove Road – funding secured to create a one-way system & consultation would commence in March. Residents expressed concern that

residents in other roads had received letters regarding similar schemes but it now appeared funding had been allocated to Grove Road only at the expense of others. The Local Engineer had been contacted but had not confirmed that a mistake had been made. Parking needed to be alleviated in all roads. **Councillor Brennan to take up the matter.**

Alfred Road, demolition of maisonettes & erection of houses, using car park space – resident expressed concern that valuable car parking space was being taken up for new housing. The area was already congested and suffered from insufficient parking for the residents already living in the area therefore additional properties were going to exacerbate the situation. **Councillor Brennan undertook to speak to the councillors for that ward to see if any action could be taken.** It was suggested that Birmingham should be able to work out its own planning legislation and not be bound by government law.

Councillor Brennan to ask the Director of Planning to a future meeting to discuss planning legislation in relation to HMO's, fast food take-aways, car parking & building of new properties.

2. Safety Discussion

Georgina Johnson explained her role working with the community and finding funding for community groups.

A local resident said that the community was trying to organise a junior park run in Sparkhill Park and queried whether assistance could be given. The meeting advised that Active Citizens Fund would be an appropriate source of funding and that advice could be given on other funding pots. Residents to contact Georgina for more information.

A local resident spoke about a sports group that he ran for boys and girls of varying ages, including life skills sessions. One of the main issues that he was facing was knife crime & carrying knives, especially in the 13/14 age range where young people did not feel it was wrong to carry a knife. The community needed to help take action and mentors/leaders were required to bring churches, mosques, schools etc together but help and guidance were needed. Funding was also an issue.

Georgina undertook to speak at the conclusion of the meeting and offered assistance.

Residents expressed frustration that groups that had been active in the community had folded due to lack of support and loss of community amenities and follow up. Anderton Park School had a community room set up by Sport England that should be available for community use.

Sergeant Ullah reported on the recent stabbing incident at Joseph Chamberlain College.

The community could assist by setting up Street Watches and Sergeant Ullah explained how this could be achieved. Sparkhill did not have a Street Watch Group and so volunteers were sought. In response to questions regarding effectiveness, Georgina said an evaluation was being undertaken and the outcome could be reported to a future meeting. Sergeant Ullah also encouraged residents to sign up with WMNow. Speed Watch was another action that residents could volunteer for to help the community. Such groups could gain access to funding streams which also helped the local area.

Next Steps

- Form a group for Street Watch/Speed Watch
- Businesses could also be involved
- Sign up to WMNow
- Use Operation Park Safe to report inconsiderate/illegal parking/untaxed cars

3. Local Issues

Clifton Road Car Park – nuisance caused to residents by cars parking on the car park all night leaving engines running and headlights on. Concerns raised regarding crime/nuisance. The company that owned the car park had been approached but would not take action. Sergeant Ullah suggested this was an example of where a Street Watch group would be useful as local intelligence was key to taking action. He said he would send a patrol where resources allowed.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):